

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

Congratulations on your appointment to Chair the FCC. In your new leadership role, I urge you to support the "Fair Share Plan" as a solution to current concerns with the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Fair Share Plan will keep the USF fair, ensuring that consumers like me do not pay the same rate into the USF as big businesses, regardless of how little I may use long distance.

The Keep USF Fair Coalition submitted the Fair Share Plan to the FCC on January 31, 2005. It expands who pays into the USF so that other technologies - not just phones - pay into the system. The Fair Share Plan collects the USF using a combination numbers- and revenue-based plan. This keeps the system fair, equitable and non-discriminatory.

Under the flat fee or numbers-based plan you are considering, people like me who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. I believe it would be unfair to charge low-volume and residential customers the same fees as high-volume residential or business customers.

I find it very difficult to understand why my choice to keep these extra costs at a minimum, i.e., low usage, to keep my monthly expenses down (I am low income and finding it more and more difficult to have control over my rising monthly expenses when my income does not increase) in fact turns against me in becoming a charge for non or low use.

Seriously, though, would it be fair to assess a charge to those who buy aspirin over and above the normal retail cost to offset high-priced drugs used by others? Maybe that'll be the next penalty us hard-working, struggling citizens will have to deal with!

I urge you to keep the USF fair, and adopt the Fair Share Plan. Thank you, and best of luck in your new position.

cc: Marlene Dortch, Secretary

Sincerely,

Barbara Bell
45 Perley Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

cc:

Senator Judd Gregg
Representative Charles Bass
Senator John Sununu

